

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66011
DRAFTED BY: EUR/SOV:JATREICHEL:BG
APPROVED BY: EUR/SOV:MGARRISON
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R 062251Z JUL 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 165142

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 165142 ACTION COGARD INFO USUN NEW YORK
2 JULY 76.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 165142

USUN FOR GLENNAN, COAST GUARD FOR G-WLE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, OGEN, UR

SUBJECT: OPSAIL: SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN NEW YORK FOR
SOVIET VESSELS

REF: TREICHEL-CHITTICK TELECONS, JULY 1-2

1. DEPARTMENT (EUR/SOV) INFORMED ZNAMENSKIY OF SOVIET
EMBASSY BY TELEPHONE THIS MORNING THAT COAST GUARD
AGREEABLE TO TRYING SOVIET SUGGESTION THAT SOVIET VESSELS,
"TOVARISHCH" AND "KPUZENSHTERN," ANCHOR 10-15 METERS
OFFSHORE IN THE AREA OF PIER 84. AT SAME TIME DEPARTMENT
INFORMED ZNAMENSKIY OF CONCERN OF AUTHORITIES IN NEW YORK
THAT TWO SHIPS WOULD BE UNABLE TO HOLD TO ANCHORAGE IN
THAT AREA BECAUSE OF HEAVY CURRENT. IN THIS CASE TWO
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SHIPS WOULD HAVE TO BE REMOVED FROM AREA. ZNAMENSKIY
RESPONDED THAT BOTH SHIPS HAD HEAVY ANCHORS WHICH WOULD
HOLD THEM IN PLACE.

2. DEPARTMENT ALSO MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF MOVING TWO SHIPS TO ANOTHER MORE SECURE BERTH, WITHOUT GIVING DETAILS OF LOCATION OF THIS BERTH.

3. DEPARTMENT ADVISED ZNAMENSKIY THAT SOVIET CONCERNS HAD BEEN CONVEYED IN FULL TO COAST GUARD AND THAT FURTHER INTERVENTION FROM WASHINGTON COULD ONLY COMPLICATE MATTER. FROM HERE ON MASTERS OF TWO VESSELS SHOULD BE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH CAPTAIN OF PORT OF NEW YORK.

4. SOVIET PROPOSAL TO ANCHOR 10-15 METERS FROM PIER MADE BY ZNAMENSKIY DURING MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS THIS MORNING. DURING THAT MEETING SECURITY PROBLEMS OF MOVING SOVIET SHIPS TO GRAVESEND (DANGER OF COLLISION, LARGE NUMBER OF PLEASURE CRAFT, INADEQUATE SECURITY PATROL COVERAGE) WERE EXPLAINED TO ZNAMENSKIY AND HE APPEARED TO AGREE THAT THIS WAS NOT A SATISFACTORY ALTERNATIVE. ZNAMENSKIY THEN PROPOSED 10-15 METER SOLUTION. ZNAMENSKIY ALSO STATED THAT REASONS SOVIETS DESIRED TO CHANGE BERTH ARRANGEMENTS WAS BECAUSE SOVIETS HAD RECEIVED A NUMBER OF TELEPHONE AND LETTER THREATS AIMED AT THE TWO VESSELS. KISSINGER UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 15 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE165142
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/SOV:JATREICHEL:BG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760261-0059
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197607109/baaaepfb.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <04 MAY 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPSAIL: SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN NEW YORK FOR
TAGS: OTRA, OGEN, UR
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006